

Application Serial No.: 09/926,296
Reply to Office Action dated December 9, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-22 are presently active in this case.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 13-22 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claim 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,475,606. In response to the obviousness-type double patenting rejection based upon U.S. Patent No. 6,475,606, the Applicants have timely submitted herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c), which obviates this rejection. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection based upon U.S. Patent No. 6,475,606.

Claims 13-22 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 13-17 of U.S. Patent App. Ser. No. 10/900,113. In response to the obviousness-type double patenting rejection based upon U.S. Patent App. Ser. No. 10/900,113, the Applicants note that the rejection is merely provisional. Since the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection is the only rejection remaining in the present application, the Applicants request that the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection be withdrawn in the present application and the present

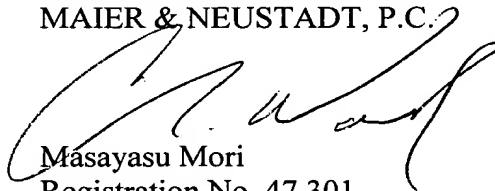
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application be permitted to issue in accordance with MPEP 804 I.B. At this time, the Applicants do not intend to file a response to the outstanding Official Action in U.S. Patent App. Ser. No. 10/900,113.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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